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December 20, 2017

Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: *Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90*

Chairman Pai:

As Commissioners of the Michigan Public Service Commission, we continue to advocate strongly in favor of expanded broadband Internet access—most notably in rural, unserved areas.

With that as background, we are writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to approve full-funding by the end of this year for the rural companies that elected to receive federal Alternative Connect America Model (A-CAM) universal service support. By acting by the end of this year, you and your commission colleagues will ensure thousands of additional citizens in Michigan will benefit from new and/or upgraded broadband services since companies that receive A-CAM support are obligated to provide those services under the FCC's 2016 order.

We understand each company's commitment to reach additional Michigan citizens based on greater funding expires by the end of the year. This presents a unique opportunity for the FCC to make an immediate impact and bring broadband services to rural citizens in our state and across the country. We also recommend the FCC expeditiously evaluate additional universal service funding for the 13 rural Michigan companies that accepted A-CAM funding so they too will have the opportunity to reach additional customers.

We appreciate your hard work and dedication in attempting to bridge the digital divide in rural America. Doing so in Michigan is among our Commission's highest priorities.

Thank you for your attention in taking this important step and approving additional A-CAM funding yet this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally A. Talberg
Chairman

Norman J. Saari
Commissioner

Rachael A. Eubanks
Commissioner